

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of

Bruno Cattaruzzi

Application No. 09/740,966

Examiner: Son T. Nguyen
Group Art Unit 3643

Filed December 21, 2000

For APPARATUS FOR LOADING FOWL

26 North Second Street

Memphis, Tennessee 38103

April 23, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

In response to the Office Action dated March 25, 2002, please include the following:

MARKED UP VERSION

1. (Amended) An apparatus for capturing, conveying and loading fowl into selected compartments of a plurality of storage cages, comprising:
- a) a frame;
 - b) forward conveying means pivotally mounted to said frame for capturing said fowl and conveying said fowl proximate said frame;
 - c) rearward conveying means pivotally mounted to said frame, independent of said forward conveying means, for receiving fowl from said forward conveying means, conveying said fowl from said frame and discharging

said fowl into selected ones of said compartments ~~of~~ forming said storage ~~transport~~ cages, wherein said rearward conveying means is pivotally mounted to said frame for movement about both a horizontal axis and a vertical axis to accommodate the discharge of said fowl into said compartments which may be disposed both vertically and laterally in relation to said frame.

4. (Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 3 wherein said pivot means comprises:

- a) a primary slewing ring mounted to said frame for rotation about a vertical axis,
- b) a primary slewing frame connected to said primary slewing ring and pivotally connected to said forward ~~conveyor~~ conveying means,
- c) a secondary slewing ring rotatably mounted to said frame in coaxial relation to said primary slewing ring, and
- d) a secondary slewing frame connected to said secondary slewing ring and pivotally connected to said rearward conveyor means.

5. (Amended) Apparatus as described in claim 4 wherein said primary slewing frame comprises:

- a) a support member connected to said primary slewing ring and extending horizontally therefrom, and
- b) one or more fulcrum members connected to said support member opposite said primary slewing ring and in vertically angular relation to said support member, wherein said forward ~~conveyor~~ conveying

means is pivotally connected to an upper end of said one or more
fulcrum ~~member~~ members for rotational movement about a
horizontal axis.

6. (Amended) Apparatus as described in claim 5 further comprising first means
connected to said primary slewing frame and to said forward ~~conveyor~~ conveying
means for urging said forward ~~conveyor~~ conveying means about said horizontal axis.

7. (Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 6 wherein said first urging means
comprises:

- a) one or more lift arms pivotally connected to a lower end of said
fulcrum members and slidably connected to said forward conveying
means ~~conveyor~~; and
- b) a plurality piston and shaft assemblies pivotally connected to said
fulcrum members and to said lift arms for selectively urging said lift
arms about a horizontal axis and, correspondingly, rotating said
forward conveyor vertically about another horizontal axis located
proximate said upper ends end of said fulcrum members.

11. (Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said forward conveying
means comprises:

- a) forward conveyor frame pivotally mounted to said frame;
- b) a plurality of rollers mounted within said forward conveyor
conveying frame for rotational movement;
- c) a forward conveyor belt supported by said forward rollers in

pressed contact therewith such that rotation of one or more of said forward rollers will urge said belt in continuous motion about said forward rollers and along said forward frame; and

- d) forward gathering means connected to said forward conveyor frame for engaging one or more of said fowl and thrusting said fowl onto said forward conveyor belt so that said fowl are transported on said forward conveyor belt from said gathering means to a rearward end of said forward conveying means which is disposed above a receiving end of said rearward conveying means and wherein said fowl are discharged from said rearward end of said forward conveying means and fall vertically to said receiving end of said rearward conveying means.

13. (Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 12 further comprising a pair of flexible combs each connected to opposite sides of said forward conveyor frame and proximate said plurality of forward fingered drums for containing said fowl on said forward conveyor belt, wherein each comb includes flexible teeth which will bend to allow the discharge of fowl from said forward conveyor when said fowl exceed a predetermined density thereon.

14. (Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 11 further comprising a discharge hood connected to said rearward end of said ~~front~~ forward conveyor frame and defining a top panel connected to and supported by two side panels which are connected to said forward conveyor frame and positioned laterally of said forward conveyor belt, and a

rear panel connected to said side panels and said top panel opposite said forward conveyor belt wherein said top, rear and side panels limit horizontal movement of fowl discharged from said forward conveyor belt but allow said fowl to drop downward from said forward conveyor belt and onto said receiving end of said rearward conveying means.

16. (Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said rearward conveying means comprises:

- a) a first rearward conveyor pivotally mounted to said frame for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis and a vertical axis; and
- b) a second rearward conveyor slidably connected to said first rearward conveyor for sliding telescopic extension and retraction relative thereto.

17. (Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 16 further comprising automatic urging means connected to said first and second rearward conveyors for automatically urging said second rearward conveyor in sliding motion relative to said first rearward conveyor concurrently with and proportionately responsive to the pivotal movement of said rearward conveying means about said horizontal axis.

33. (Amended) An apparatus for the capturing and loading of fowl comprising:

- a) a frame;
- b) a first rearward conveyor pivotally mounted to said frame for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis;
- c) a second rearward conveyor slidably connected to said first

rearward conveyor for sliding telescopic movement relative thereto;
and

- d) means mounted to said first and second rearward conveyors for automatically urging said second rearward conveyor in sliding telescopic movement relative to said first rearward conveyor concurrently with and proportionately responsive to the pivotal movement of said first rearward conveyor.

34. (Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 33 wherein said automatic urging means comprises a plurality of linkage member, each pivotally connected to one of the others of said plurality of linkage members and wherein one of said plurality of linkage members is pivotally connected to said second rearward conveyor and another of said linkage members is connected to said first rearward conveyor.

37. (Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 32 wherein said discharging means includes a discharge carriage pivotally connected to said second rearward conveyor for movement about a substantially vertical axis and laterally of the second rearward conveyor ~~laterally thereof~~; and a rearward fingered drum rotably connected to said discharge carriage for engaging said fowl and discharging said fowl from said second rearward conveyor.

CLEAN VERSION

1. (Amended) An apparatus for capturing, conveying and loading fowl into selected compartments of a plurality of storage cages, comprising:

- a) a frame;
- b) forward conveying means pivotally mounted to said frame for capturing